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SECURITY INFORMATION

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SOURCE 

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STRENGTH OF BORDER GUARD TROOPS

1. I estimate that the total strength of the Border Guard Troops was about 300,000 officers, NCO's, and privates. These figures are not based on documentary evidence, since the strength of Border Guard Troops and that of other security and army troops was top secret information. They were unknown to senior or general officers of the Border Guard Troops.
2. It was impossible to determine the number of troops by figuring the lengths of guarded borders. Some companies of 60 men may have guarded a stretch of 4 to 20 km., whereas other companies of 20 men may have guarded stretches up to 100 km. in inaccessible Arctic regions. Furthermore, there was no uniform T/O for units. Some districts had four detachments, others had nine. Some detachments had four battalions, others had nine. Some battalions had four line companies, others had nine. Companies varied in T/O and in actual strength from 20 to 64 men.

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3. From personal observation and hearsay [redacted] service, I would give the following estimates for an average-sized Border Guard Troops battalion and detachment:

## a. Battalion

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>NCO's</u>	<u>Privates</u>
Total	40	90	280
Headquarters	(20)	(10)	-
5 Companies (An average company had 3 officers, 10 NCO's, and 40 privates)	(15)	(50)	(200)
1 Reserve Company	( 3)	(15)	(40)
1 Service and Supply Company	( 2)	(15)	(40)

I think that the activation of the reserve and service and supply companies [redacted] originated after World War II. Before the war, a battalion had only a training reserve company (Uchebnaya Reservnaya Zastava) of about 50 officers and EM. During the war, there was no uniform T/O. The training reserve company was changed to the service and supply company in 1945 and consisted of 55-65 officers and EM. A new reserve (emergency) company of 50 to 60 officers and EM was then activated. Since I knew of reserve companies in only the Turkmen border district and of none in the Lithuanian border district, I am not sure if this was a T/O change made after the war or just a different T/O for the Turkmen district.

## b. Detachment

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>NCO's</u>	<u>Privates</u>
Total	302	525	1,800
Headquarters (break-down given in RC-1930)	(85)	(20)	-
5 Battalions	(200)	(450)	(1,400)
1 Maneuver Group	(4)	(20)	(125)
1 Cavalry remount squadron	(4)	(20)	(125)
1 Signal Company	(5)	(10)	(80)
1 Engineer Platoon	-	-	(20)
Control and Check Points	(2)	(3)	(20)
Depots	(2)	(2)	(30)

4. While in the Ministry of State Security (MGB - Ministerstvo Gosudarstvennoy Bezopastnosti) school for senior Border Guard Troops Officers in Moscow in 1951 - 52, [redacted] officers from various detachments numbered from #1 to #110. I think that the Border Guard Troops had 110 detachments, whose total strength was about 33,220 officers, 57,750 NCO's and 198,000 privates. I can not say if all 110 detachments were land Border Guard Troops or if some were composed of air and maritime Border Guard Troops. [See para. 5, below.]

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5. In addition, there were 15 to 17 border district headquarters, each with about 250 officers, 50 NCO's and 25 privates. This totaled in round numbers about 4,000 officers, 800 NCO's and 400 privates. The Main Administration (Glavnoye Upravleniye) of Border Guard Troops had about 500 officers and 100 NCO's. Finally, there were 16 OCS schools, each with an average of 200 to 300 students and about 10 officers, 20 NCO's and 30 privates for technical/housekeeping duties. OCS figures, in round numbers, totaled about 4,000 OCS students, 160 officers, 300 NCO's and 500 privates.
6. Based on the above reasoning, I figure the breakdown of the Border Guard Troops to be about 4,000 OCS students, 37,880 officers, 58,950 NCO's and 198,900 privates - a total of approximately 299,730 or, in round figures, 300,000.
7. I do not know the respective strength figures of the air and maritime Border Guard Troops. I believe that the total of all Border Guard Troops, including these two segments, would still be 300,000. I make this conclusion because, from conversations [redacted] at the senior MGB officers' school, I know that wherever there were air and naval units, there were less land Border Guard Troops, since it was unnecessary to send out patrols in such cases.
8. I am not sure if there were increases in Border Guard Troops strength since the end of World War II. I think that the increase of over-all border length by the acquisition of new territories (Baltic states and Poland in 1940 and East Prussia and parts of the Balkans in 1945) would necessitate an increase, especially in the maritime branch.

STRENGTH OF OTHER FORCES

9. Based on hearsay information only, I estimate the strength of other security forces to be as follows:

<u>Force</u>	<u>Strength</u>
Convoy Troops	100,000 to 150,000
Railway Troops	100,000
Guards for Special Purposes	150,000 to 200,000
Operational Troops <sup>1.</sup>	100,000
<u>Interior Troops</u>	<u>150,000</u>
Total	600,000 to 700,000

10. That total plus the 300,000 Border Guard Troops gave the MVD forces an estimated strength of 1,000,000 men. The militia (local and county police) is not included in this figure. I heard that in Moscow alone there were 130,000 militiamen.

LEADERSHIP OF MVD FORCES

11. I do not know who was the chief of Interior Troops in June 1953. I never heard of one man heading both the Directorate of Interior Troops and the Directorate of Border Guard Troops.
12. Gen Mayor STAKHANOV was Deputy Minister of MVD troops in June 1953, three months after the MGB and MVD had merged. I do not know just what troops were under his command. He could have been in charge of Border Guard Troops only or of all MVD forces, including the militia.
1. [redacted] Comment: Source knew of three divisions of operational troops, each consisting of 10,000 to 12,000 officers and EM. However, he felt certain that there were more than three divisions in the operational troops as a whole.

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